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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Bonnie R. Hames et al. )  
Int. Appl. No.: PCT/US01/11825 ) Examiner: Jon P. Weber  
Filing Date: April 10, 2001 ) Group Art Unit: 1651  
Title: Improved Process For The ) Ser. No. 10/031,216  
Conversion of an Aqueous Biomass )  
Hydrolyzate Into Fuels or Chemicals ) Atty. Dkt. No. NREL 98-22  
By the Selective Removal of )  
Fermentation Inhibitors )

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Patent Application  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In advance of prosecution, and before this application is taken up for examination on the merits, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2 and 4 without prejudice.

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1. (Amended) A process of making a fuel or chemical from a biomass hydrolyzate comprising [the steps of]:
- providing a biomass hydrolyzate;
  - adjusting pH of [the] said biomass hydrolyzate within a range of 6 - 10;
  - contacting a metal oxide selected from the group consisting of titanium dioxide, vanadium oxide, and zirconium oxide having an affinity for guaiacyl or